Bekal Utsahi, Shri
Chavan, Shri S. B.
Fernandes, Shri John F.
Hanumanthappa, Shri H.
Hariprasad, Shri B. K.
Hashmi, Shri Shamim
Jani, Shri Jagadish
Kailashpati, Shrimati
Kalita, Shri Bhubaneswar
Khaparde, Miss Saroj
Lotha, Shri Khyomo
Mathur, Shri Manmohan
Narayanasamy, Shri V.
Natarajan, Shrimati Jayanthi
Palaniyandi, Shri M.
Pragada Kotaiah, Shri
Ramachandran, Shri S. K. T.
Reddy, Shri T. Chandrasekhar
Sanadi, Prof. I. G.
Sarma, Shrimati Basanti
Swamy, Shri Subramanian
Verma, Shrimati Veena
Vincent, Shri M.
Yadav, Shri Ram Naresh

The Motion was negatived.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: You can see the result. It is only 26 in your favour. We have not participated in the voting. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go ahead with the Business. uestion Hour. Question No. 121 (*Interruptions*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

देश में गैर-सरकारी कुरिअर सेवाओं का कार्यकरण

*121. डॉ० अबरार अहमद : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गैर-सरकारी कुरिअर सेवायें देश में डाक सेवाओं के सामानान्तर कार्य कर रही हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप डाक विभाग को नुकसान उठाना पड़ा है, यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस संबंध में कोई कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही है, ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कुरिअर सेवाओं के कारण देश में कुछ डाकघरों को बन्द भी करना पड़ा है, और यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान राजस्थान में किन-किन स्थानों पर डाकघरों को बन्द किया गया है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government are aware that Private Courier Services are operating in the country resulting in some loss of revenue to the Department of Posts. The Department is countering in-roads by Private Couriers into its business by its guaranteed Express Mail Service called Speed Post.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 30 Post Offices were closed in Rajasthan during the last three years (1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91). Names of the places where the post offices have been closed are given in the Statement. These post offices have not been closed due to competition from courier services but because of norms, inadequate traffic and ready availability of service in a nearby post office.

Statement

Names of the places in Rajasthan where post offices have been closed during the last three years (1988-89, 89-90 & 90-91.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post Office	Status of the Post Office	Year of closure
1	Mental Hospital, Jaipur	DSO	1988-89
2	Chowkri Gangapur	DSO	Do.
3	Brahmpuri Jaipur	DSO	Do.
4	Janata Bazar Jaipur	DSO	Do.
5	Ghat Gate Jaipur	DSO	Do.
6	Sikar House Colony Jaipur	DSO	Do.
7	Postal Stamps Depot Jaipur	DSO	Do.
8	Shahid Pannalal Chowraha Ramganj Mandi Kota	DSO	Do.
9	Krishi Upaj Mandi, Shoganj	EDSO	Do.
10	Rungtapuram Jaipur	DSO	Do.
11	Mahilla Vidyapeeth Bhusawar Bharatpur	DSO	Do.
12	Ramgarh Bus Stand Alwar	DSO	Do.
13	Tehri Srikaranpur Sriganganagar	DSO	Do.
14	Chetak Circle Udaipur	DSO	Do.
15	Gurukal Chittorgarh	DSO	Do.
16	Sainik School Chittorgarh	DSO	Do.
17	Kansal Garh Bus Stand Banswara	DSO	Do.
18	Kapsan R.S. TSO Chittorgarh	DSO	Do.
19	Jaisalmer Station Road	DSO	Do.
20	Banswas Patti Swaimadhopur	EDBO	Do.
21	Rajasthan Police Academy Jaipur	DSO	Do.
22	Ripa TSO Jaipur City	DSO	Do.
23	CB FARM Alwar	EDBO	Do.
24	Kharchi Bazar Pali	EDSO	Do.
25	Assembly Hostel Jaipur	DSO	1989-90
26	SMS Hospital Jaipur	DSO	Do.

Sl.No	Name of the Post Office	Status of the Post Office	Year of closure
27	Patan Pole Kota	DSO	198 9-90
28	Goga Gate Bikaner	DSO	Do.
29	RDS Bureau NDTSO Jaipur	DSO	1990-91
30	Polytechnic EDTSO Alwar	EDSO	Do.

DSO:—Departmental Sub-post Office.
EDSO:—Extra Departmental Sub-post Office.
EDBO:—Extra Departmental Branch-Post Office.

डा० अबरार अहमद खान : सर, मेरी पहली सप्लीमेंटरी है कि जो कुरिअर सर्विसेज है, वह सर्विसेज, जैसाकि उत्तर के अन्दर जिक्र किया गया है कि स्पीड पोस्ट सर्विसेज चालू है, लेकिन कुरिअर सर्विसेज बैटर है और उनकी फीस कम है तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आप स्पीड पोस्ट सर्विस की फीस को कम करेंगे, जिससे कि ये कुरियर सर्विस के साथ में कम्पीट कर सके। इसी में मेरे प्रश्न का (ब) भाग यह है कि डाक तार विभाग की जो रेपुटेशन है, वह बराबर गिरती जा रही है **(व्यवधान)** अखबारों में छपा है कि पोस्टमैन ने 25 लाख रुपये खा लिये या कोई सेक्रेटरी फोरेन एक्सचेंज दबाये बैठा है **(व्यवधान)** इस तरह से लोगों की डाक तार विभाग में आस्था कम हो रही है और प्राइवेट कुरियर के प्रति बढ़ रही है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इसकी रेपुटेशन बढ़ाने के लिये सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है? **(व्यवधान)**।

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट) : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सही है कि स्पीड पोस्ट में कुछ त्रुटियां रहीं, जिसकी वजह से कुरिअर सर्विसेज आगे चलती रही। हम यह महसूस करते हैं कि जब तक सर्विसेज में सुधार नहीं लायेंगे, तब तक कुरिअर सर्विसेज के साथ हम कम्पीट नहीं कर पायेंगे **(व्यवधान)** हम लोगों ने इसके लिये एक कमेटी बनाई है। वह कमेटी यह देखेगी कि स्पीड पोस्ट में क्या सुधार हो सकते हैं और किस तरीके से इसको आगे बढ़ाया जा सकता है। **(व्यवधान)** सर, बात सही है कि भ्रष्टाचार के कुछ केसेज पकड़े गये और शिमला में एक पोस्ट आफिस में पोस्ट-मास्टर ने 25 लाख रुपये का गबन किया। जब यह बात सरकार के नोटिस में आई, तो सरकार ने कदम उठाये। न सिर्फ उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की, बल्कि जो उसमें सीनियर अधिकारी हैं, उनकी अकाऊंटेबिलिटी लेने के लिये उन अधिकारियों के खिलाफ भी कार्यवाही शुरू की जिसमें हम आगे बढ रहे हैं **(व्यवधान)** जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने सेक्रेटरी के बारे में कहा है, **(व्यवधान)** यह बात फाइल पर आई है कि फोरेन एक्सचेंज सेक्रेटरी को जो वापिस करनी थी, वह नहीं की **(व्यवधान)** हमने उस में कार्यवाही करके यह केस प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब को भेज दिया है, क्योंकि सेक्रेटरी का अप्वाइंटमेंट केबीनट कमेटी द्वारा होता है **(व्यवधान)** यह प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब के ऊपर है, कि जितनी जल्दी उसमें करें **(व्यवधान)** जो कुछ हमारी सूचना थी, वह हमने प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब को भिजवा दी है। **(व्यवधान)**।

डा० अबरार अहमद : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि कुरिअर सर्विसेज वाले स्वतन्त्र रूप से मनचाहे व्यक्ति इस सर्विस को प्रारम्भ कर देते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या

इसके लिये कोई रजिस्ट्रेशन या किसी भी प्रकार का ऐसा तरीका अपनायेंगे, जिससे इन सर्विसेज में काम करने वाले सरकार से रजिस्ट्रेशन करवायें या अनुमति लें जिससे मनचाहे व्यक्ति सर्विसेज प्रारम्भ न कर सकें ? (व्यवधान) इसके इलावा कुरिअर सर्विसेज में डाक के इलावा फाइनैंशियल मेटर्ज इनवालव्ड हैं । बड़े-बड़े चैक और ड्राफ्ट भी कुरिअर सर्विस के द्वारा भेजे जाते हैं। क्या वे ऐसा कर सकते हैं ? इस संबंध में क्या प्रावधान है । जिस प्रकार से इतने बड़े-बड़े चैक और ड्राफ्ट भेजे जाते हैं, इससे सरकार को बड़ा नुकसान होता है । इसको रोकने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ? (व्यवधान)

श्री राजेश पायलट : आप लोग सुन नहीं रहे हैं (व्यवधान) आप सुनें, तो बोलें (व्यवधान) बलराम जाखड़ जी ने अभी कहा (व्यवधान) आप सुनने के लिये तैयार ही नहीं हैं (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pilot, you are supposed to reply to the supplementary only.

श्री राजेश पायलट : सभापति महोदय, कुरिअर सर्विसेज में सिर्फ डाकूमेंट वगैरह ही ले जाना अलाऊड है। (व्यवधान) हम यह महसूस करते हैं कि हमारे इंडियन पोस्टल एक्ट में थोड़ी कमजोरी है । हमने इंडियन पोस्टल एक्ट को अमेंड करने के लिए एक कमेटी बैठाई है। यह एक्ट 1898 का है अर्थात् 100 साल पुराना है । आज हालात बदलते जा रहे हैं। हमने फैसला किया है कि सारे एक्ट को हम इतना मजबूत करें कि उसमें जो लेकूना और लूपहोल्ज हैं सब समाप्त हो जाय । कायदे के अनुसार कुरिअर सर्विसेज वाले सिर्फ डाकूमेंट ही ले जा सकते हैं, लेटर्ज नहीं ले जा सकते हैं लेकिन फिर भी ऐसी शिकायतें मिली हैं कि वे मेल भी ले जाते हैं। हम लोग पकड़ने की कोशिश करते हैं (व्यवधान) लेकिन डाक को पकड़ना बड़ा मुश्किल काम है । वह लेटर ले जाते हैं और डाकूमेंट बता देते हैं। (व्यवधान) कुरिअर सर्विस जब डाकूमेंट ले जाने के लिए शुरू हुई थी उसमें कुछ यूनीवर्सल फोरेन कम्पनीज कुरियर की हैं उनके साथ 31 कम्पनियों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन करा रखा है (व्यवधान) लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिया है, उस पर सरकार जरूर कदम उठायेगी । (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : डा० जे०के० जैन । (व्यवधान)

डा० अबरार अहमद : सर, यह बड़े दुःख की बात है कि यह नियम और कानून की बात करते हैं, लेकिन आपकी भी बात नहीं सुन रहे । . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I request honourable Members to kindly let the proceedings go on... (*Interruptions*)... You have registered your protest how let the business of the House go on... (*Interruptions*)... Let us see that the Rules of Procedure, the Constitutional process and the democratic process go on... (*Interruptions*)... Let us permit the democratic process. That has been my view all the time, as you know, for the last so many years. ... (*Interruptions*)... I think you have expressed your protest. Now kindly let the proceedings go on. Don't obstruct the proceedings now; don't obstruct the democratic process... (*Interruptions*)... I can only humbly request you let the process go on... (Interruptions)... Question Hour is an important part of the proceedings of the House. ... (*Interruptions*)... You wanted to register your protest and I have given you full permission. After your protest, shouting now will not add to it. ... (*Interruptions*)... Kindly hear me. Now I can only request you, nothing more. My request is for you to agree or not to agree ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : The Government is out to ruin the country, sell out the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you kindly don't ruin the Questiosn Hour and the procedure of this House... (*Interruptions*) ...

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have noticed with interest the reply given by the honourable Minister. He says that he is not going to stop the private mail, which is the courier service, and that he is also going to amend the hundred-year old Indian Postal law. Now we are going into the information age, the electronic age, in the coming days. In fact it has already started—the age of electronic mail. Is the proposed law going to cover the technological aspects of electronic mail? Today, in other countries, electronic mail is the best way of sending messages across. That means some computer networks. Here some networks have already been made available by some Government agencies and some public sector corporations. I wish to know from the honourable Minister what, if some private organizations set up some electronic computer networks and undertake electronic mailing, is going to be Government's attitude towards this. Is the Government going to support such ventures and efforts which will further help business, industry, medicine and all other communications among the Indian citizens? This is what I wish to know from the honourable Minister. Thank you.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me first correct his impression. I have said that couriers are supposed to carry documents—they are not supposed to carry mail. But because of some weakness in the Act, it becomes very difficult to catch them.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : कोई नहीं सुन रहा है । . . (व्यवधान) . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : कोई नहीं सुन रहा है आप क्या कर रहे हैं ! . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am correcting so that he would understand me.

The second point about electronic mail is, we have already initiated the step. If the honourable Member would recollect, I myself have initiated a Rural Area Business etwork. With this electronic system we can transfer messages from any place to anywhere, to the remotest possible area. We have already started sending money orders electronically and we are also taking up sending telegrams by electronic methods. It is a very good idea. We are working on it and we know that this is going to be the future of this department. We are working sincerely on this and seeing how much we can go ahead with this within our resources...(*Interruptions*) . . .

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: I agree that it is a good idea and you are taking it as a good idea, but my question was, if private people also do it, will you encourage them to do it?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Government's problem is, whenever we talk about liberalization, whenever we talk about improvement, our colleagues on that side merely land up on privatization. Government's policy is to liberalize, and liberalize in a way which is good both for the nation and the workers. Government's policy is not to totally go in for privatization—which is always misquoted and misunderstood. I agree with the honourable Member that it can be considered on this basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khyomo Lotha.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : बड़े दुख की बात है कि हमने जो . . . (व्यवधान) . . . इसलिए हम क्वेश्चन आवर सस्पेंड करने की मांग कर रहे थे . . . (व्यवधान) . . . इसलिए यह कहना पड़ता है कि यह सरकार इस देश के खिलाफ है । . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Sir, as the Minister knows very well the topography of the North-East, I want to have an assurance from the Minister on the working of the Postal Department in this region. Now there is a communication gap between the people of the North-East and the people living on this side. It takes a long time to communicate with the North-East. (*Interruptions*) In view of this, private persons have taken advantage of this

situation, and they have established private courier services. They charge Rs. 70 per letter. (*Interruptions*) So, I want to have an assurance from the Minister that speed post facilities will be given to this region, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh etc. You know that there is a strike going on in the Postal Department in the North-East. I want that their demand should be judiously considered, but they should be pulled up for irregularities and inefficiency. I want this assurance from the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH : Sir, in protest we walk out.

(*At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ratnakar Pandey has come. It is in protest against his entry.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, to come to this House they had to break the strike and ply their vehicles. They are not allowing others to ply their vehicles, but they have come in their cars to the House. They cannot have this double standard. Either you have a complete strike or you call it off.

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़) : सभापति महोदय, स्वामी जी जो कह रहे हैं वह बात ठीक है ।

श्री सभापति : स्वामियों की बात हमेशा ठीक होती है

श्री बलराम जाखड़: उनका तरीका ठीक है । वैसे तो देश को दो मिल में नहीं कर सके तो अब इसको सीधा करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the hon. Member has said is very right. The North-East is one region which requires higher attention in regard to posts and communications. We have given a high priority to the North-East, and we have taken a decision that wherever we can enhance our services in the Postal Department, we will even relax our rules to open post offices in the North-East. Regarding communications also we have taken a decision to connect all the panchayats in the country. The North-East, Punjab and Kashmir are having the highest possible priority in communications.

Another point of the hon. Member was about the Speed Post in the North-East. We will certainly consider opening more Speed Post Centres. Wherever the hon. Members feel and wherever it could be economically viable also, we will encourage that.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has rightly admitted that there is connivance between the Postal Department officials and private couriers. I don't think that with this connivance between them it is possible for the Speed Post to function. It is a common sight that near the post offices you find the agents of these private couriers, and also right in the post offices. Pending the amendment of the Postal Act, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will have his Vigilance Department working in post offices to see that courier agents are not allowed to function within the premises of the post offices.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Let me correct it. First, the hon. Member, I think, misunderstood my first reply. Abrarji, talking about corruption in the Department, mentioned that some case was found in the Department in Himachal Pradesh, in which the Postmaster of a very small village had swindled round about Rs. 25 lakhs. The case was going on for the last one year or so. I said that it is not only the Postmaster of the small village who was responsible but also the people who are above him, up to the PMG level, and that they should answer about it. It is not a small amount of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 which I can see the Postman forgot to deliver. It is Rs. 25 lakhs. For 1-1/2 years nobody has bothered about it. That is why we are taking action against the Postmaster General and Senior Superintendent of Post Offices and whosoever served during that tenure in

that area. We are going ahead with the action and whoever is found guilty will be punished.

I agree there were some irregularities found against the safety department. We have referred it to the Prime Minister's office. Regarding irregularities in foreign exchange also, we have sent it to the Prime Minister's office for taking further action.

I do accept there is a revenue leakage in the Department. That is why I wrote to the hon. Home Minister and CBI to keep a watch on our Department by the CBI. We will pay whatever charges they take from us. In this way we are tightening the vigilance side. We are also trying to create a separate vigilance cell in each region and department. But this might take a long time to select the officers and impart training to them. That is why we have asked the CBI to look after the whole department. We do not mind paying them whatever they charge so that a close look at the Department can be kept by the CBI.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 122.

Plots to non-resident Indians in Delhi

*122. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH: HANSPAL:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:†

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Non-Resident Indians have urged Government for providing them with residential plots in the Capital on payment in foreign currency;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

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†The question was asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A scheme for allotment of residential plots to NRIs in Delhi was launched by the Government in 1976. It was discontinued in 1981. Some request for revival of the earlier scheme have been received. There is no proposal for revival of the scheme. However, considering the need to secure foreign exchange for the country, a scheme to attract NRI's for investment is under consideration.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, in my opinion the Government's reply is satisfactory. The allegation was that the Government has advertised for land allotment scheme through the Indian missions abroad. They have accepted earnest money in foreign exchange. Then the Government went back. That is the allegation. I also understand that NRIs have gone to the court and lost the case. As the NRIs lost the case, the Government's stand has been vindicated. This is one side of the story. The other side is that most NRIs are middle class professionals like doctors, chartered accountants, engineers, etc., they went abroad for a few years and now they want to come back and settle down in their home land. They are also prepared to pay the cost of land in foreign exchange. My question is: (a) How many applications have the Government received from NRIs for land allotment? (b) Just as DDA has evolved a scheme for co-operative societies, will DDA evolve a scheme for NRIs also? (c) How long it will take for DDA to finalise such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): Sir, the hon. Member has already given the details of the scheme that was formulated in the year 1976. Eventually it did not come into being. After that why that scheme has been withdrawn, I would like to explain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to the present.